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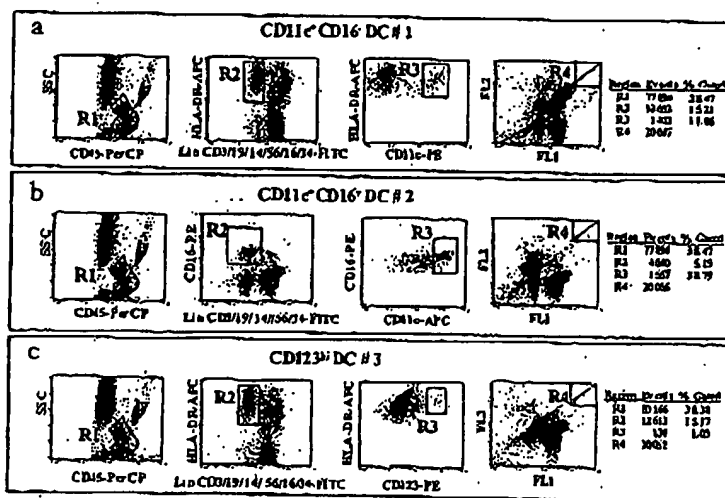


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- (54) Title: **A METHOD OF CHARACTERIZING DENDRITIC CELLS**
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(57) Abstract: A method of characterizing cells in a subclass of dendritic cells or precursors thereof in a biological sample. The method comprising placing the sample in contact with immunointeractive molecules directed to at least one dendritic cell immunogen (e.g. HLA-DR, CE123, CD11c, CD11b/c, BDCA2, BDCA3, BDCA4, CD16, CD83, CD45, CD40, CMRF-44 AND CMRF-56) and at least one non-dendritic cell immunogen (e.g. CD3, CD19, CD14, CD56, CD11b, CD34) and detecting the presence of one or more dendritic cell immunogen-immunointeractive molecule complexes and the absence of one or more non-dendritic cell immunogen-immunointeractive molecule complexes. An analysis of the cells of the subclass of dendritic cells is performed based on the presence and absence of the above complexes. This method may be used in disease diagnosis by comparing the number of cells in the subset of dendritic cells or precursors thereof with the number of the same subset of cells found in an age-matched non-diseased patient.

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